

Report on Leadership Training in Internet Governance for Persons with Disabilities in Pakistan.

Introduction:

I recently attended a groundbreaking Leadership Training in Internet Governance for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Pakistan, held in Islamabad from December 26th to 28th, 2023. This three-day workshop, organized by Path Finder Solutions (Private) Limited and ISOC Accessibility Standing Group, proved to be a transformative experience, equipping me with valuable knowledge and a renewed commitment to digital accessibility.

Key Learnings:

Internet Governance: The workshop provided a comprehensive introduction to Internet Governance (IG), including its multi-stakeholder model, the global ecosystem, and current trends. Understanding these fundamentals is crucial for PWDs to actively participate in shaping the internet's future.

Accessibility Best Practices: Identifying and removing barriers in technology and the online environment is essential for achieving digital inclusion.

Privacy and Cybersecurity: Protecting online data and privacy is paramount in today's digital world. The workshop addressed the risks associated with internet use and presented best practices for safeguarding personal information.

Opportunities in IG: I gained valuable knowledge about fellowship and grant opportunities in IG, opening doors to further engagement and influence in policymaking processes. This information empowers PWDs to actively contribute to shaping IG policies and decisions.

Pakistan's Digital Ecosystem: Understanding the current state and future directions of Pakistan's digital landscape is crucial for effective advocacy and participation. The workshop offered insightful discussions on the country's digital initiatives and their potential impact on PWDs.

Role of PWDs in Shaping IG Policies: We explored how PWDs can become agents of change in creating a more inclusive and accessible internet for all. Learning about effective advocacy strategies and mechanisms for influencing policy decisions was particularly empowering.

Commitment and Action:

Attending this workshop has reaffirmed my commitment to contributing to digital accessibility. My action plan includes:

Actively working on digital accessibility: I will leverage my newfound knowledge to provide consulting and solutions to organizations seeking to make their websites, products, and services accessible to all.

Advocacy through webinars: Collaborating with fellow participants, I plan to conduct webinars and workshops to raise awareness about digital accessibility among stakeholders and advocate for its implementation across various sectors.

Conclusion:

The Leadership Training in Internet Governance for PWDs proved to be a powerful catalyst for personal and professional growth. Armed with knowledge, skills, and a network of fellow advocates, I am empowered to contribute to a more inclusive and accessible digital future for Pakistan and beyond. So Greatful to Mr. Dr. Shabeer Awan Sahab for providing me the opportunity to attend this groundbreaking conference